

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-24 are pending in the present Application. By this amendment, Claims 11, 14, 16, and 21 have been amended, Claim 25 has been added, and Claims 13, 19, 20, 22, and 23 have been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-18, 21, 24, and 25 are currently at issue.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 1-10, 15, and 24. Applicants thank the Examiner for this determination of allowable subject matter.

Additionally, in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 12-14 and 20 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intermediate claims. Applicants have amended Claim 11 to contain the additional elements of Claim 13, and have amended Claim 16 to contain the additional elements of Claim 20 (and intermediate Claim 19). Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 11 and 16 are now allowable. Additionally, Applicants have added new Claim 25, which includes all the elements of Claim 12, including the elements of the original base claim. Further, Claims 12, 14, 17, 18, and 21 are now dependent upon allowable base Claims, and Applicants submit that these claims are allowable as well. As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections to Claims 12 and 14.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 11, 16, 17, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 186,018 to Ransom ("Ransom"). Additionally, in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 11, 16, 19, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,883 to Livingston *et al.* ("Livingston"). Further, in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ransom in view of U.S.

Patent No. 472,725 to Burgess ("Burgess"). Applicants maintain that these claims, as written, are patentable over the cited prior art. However, in the interests of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to include only subject matter which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Thus, Applicants submit that the present Amendment fully addresses the Examiner's rejections. Applicants reserve the right to present the rejected claims in a later continuing application

By this Reply, Claims 11 and 16 have been amended to include all the elements of dependent claims 13 and 20, respectively, which the Examiner indicated were allowable. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 11 and 16 are now allowable over the cited prior art. Additionally, Claims 19, 22, and 23 have been cancelled. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 17, 18, and 21 are allowable, as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections of Claims 11, 16, 17, 18, and 21, and allowance of the same.

III. New Claims

By this Amendment, Claim 25 has been added. Claim 25 represents original Claim 12 rewritten into independent form. In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that such a claim would be allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claim 25.

Application No. 10/659,761
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Reply to Office Action Mailed May 19, 2005

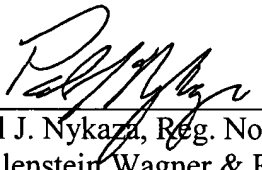
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-18, 21, and 24 in the present Application. Additionally, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw his objections to Claims 12 and 14. Further, Applicants request allowance of newly added Claim 25. Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

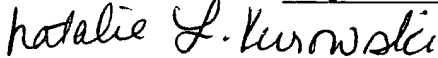
Dated: August 19, 2005

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CERTIFICATE UNDER (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 19, 2005.



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